

SECTION 16-27-40. Acts constituting misdemeanors upon conviction of first or second offense and constituting felonies upon conviction of third or subsequent offense; penalties.

Any person who:

(a) is present at any structure, facility, or location where preparations are being made for the purpose of fighting or baiting any animal with knowledge that those preparations are being made, or

(b) is present at any structure, facility, or location with knowledge that fighting or baiting of any animal is taking place or is about to take place there is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction for a first offense must be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars or imprisonment for six months, or both, and for a second offense by a fine of one thousand dollars or imprisonment for one year, or both. Any person convicted of a third or subsequent offense is guilty of a felony and must be punished by a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment for five years, or both.

SECTION 16-27-50. Applicability of cruelty provisions; presumption of cruelty.

(A) The provisions of Section 47-1-150 apply to this chapter.

(B) For purposes of a hearing to determine whether the owner is able to provide adequately for the animal and is fit to have custody of the animal, any animal found to be owned, trained, possessed, purchased, sold, transported, or bred in violation of this chapter must be considered cruelly treated and the owner must be deemed unfit.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Bluffton Dispatch	757-3499
Dispatch Main Number	524-2777
Solicitor's Office	255-5880
BCSO Animal Control	255-5010
Palmetto Animal League	645-1725

Town of Bluffton Departments

20 Bridge Street

Town Hall Main Number	706-4500
Police Department Main Number	706-4550
Neighborhood Services Unit	706-4550



BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dog Fighting

What to look for and how to eliminate it.

The Bluffton Police Department is working with the BCSO Animal Control and Palmetto Animal League to stop Dog Fighting .



Joey Reynolds
Police Chief

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www.blufftonpolice.com

What is Dog Fighting?

Dog fighting, which is appropriately called a blood-sport, is the actual pitting of two dogs against each other in a pit or a ring to fight for the entertainment of the spectators. The dogs, usually pit bulls, literally bite and rip the flesh off of one another while the onlookers cheer, scream, and place bets on which dog will win the match. After the fight, both dogs are critically wounded, often with massive bleeding, ruptured lungs, broken bones, and other life threatening injuries. Generally, the loser of a match dies or is killed, unless he has any salvage value to his owner. When dogs are killed after a match, it is not done by humane euthanasia methods, rather the animals are shot, beaten, or tortured. The animals that survive generally never see a veterinarian, regardless of the gravity of injuries or the amount of suffering that the animals will have to endure.

Signs of a Dog fighting Operation

Because the following signs are present does not indicate an individual is involved in a dog fighting operation.

Dogs: Multiple dogs are generally housed in one location. Less sophisticated dog-fighters generally have several dogs chained in back-yards, often behind privacy fences, or in basements or garages. Dogs that have been fought have fresh wounds or scars, in various stages of healing, on the head, chest and legs.

Signs of Training or Matches: The presence of a pit is a sure sign of fighting, pay close attention to blood spattered on any surface. Dogs may be fought or trained in basements, garages, barns, and vacant buildings, so spatters of blood on any interior walls or floors should be closely documented. Dogs are often trained outside, watch for blood spattered outside, especially near training equipment. When live animals are used as bait, there are generally remains of the animals on site. Agents should look for patches of fur, bones, or decomposed bodies.

Training devices and implements such as: treadmills, jennys, spring/jump poles, flirtpoles, chains/weights, and any implements used to hang or harness bait animals. Pry bars, bite sticks, or breaking sticks are used to pry the dog's jaws open when he has gripped onto another animal.



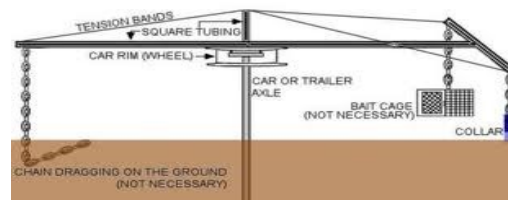
Dog Treadmill



Spring/Jump pole



Flirt Pole



Jenny



Dog Fighting Pit

If you suspect that dog fighting is occurring, notify your local law enforcement agency.

SECTION 16-27-30. Acts or omissions constituting felonies; penalties.

Any person who:

- (a) owns an animal for the purpose of fighting or baiting;
- (b) is a party to or causes any fighting or baiting of any animal;
- (c) purchases, rents, leases, or otherwise acquires or obtains the use of any structure, facility, or location for the purpose of fighting or baiting any animal; or
- (d) knowingly allows or permits or makes available any structure, facility, or location to be used for the purpose of fighting or baiting any animal is guilty of a felony and upon conviction must be punished by a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisoned for five years, or both.